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[Prostate Cancer - Questions to Ask the Doctor](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 01/2016

[3]

ON THIS PAGE: You will find some questions to ask your doctor or other members of your health care team to help you better understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, and overall care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

[Talking often with the doctor](#) [4] is important to make informed decisions about your health care. These suggested questions are a starting point to help you learn more about your cancer care and treatment. You are also encouraged to ask additional questions that are important to you. You may want to print this list and bring it to your next appointment, or [download Cancer.Net's free mobile app](#) [5] for an e-list and other interactive tools to manage your care.

Questions to ask about prostate cancer risk and screening

- What type of prostate cancer screening schedule do you recommend for me, based on my individual medical profile and family history?
- Are there any changes I can make to my diet that can help me lower my risk of prostate cancer?

Questions to ask after getting a diagnosis

- What type of prostate cancer do I have, and how aggressive is it?

- Can you explain my pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- What stage is my prostate cancer, and what does this mean?
- What is the Gleason score of my prostate cancer? What does this mean?

Questions to ask about choosing a treatment and managing side effects

- How much experience do you have treating this type of cancer?
- What are my treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to me? Where are they located, and how do I find out more about them?
- Does this prostate cancer need to be treated? What would happen if I choose not to start treatment at this time?
- What treatment plan do you recommend? Why?
- What is the goal of each treatment? Is it to eliminate the cancer, help me feel better, or both?
- Who will be part of my health care team, and what does each member do?
- Who will be coordinating my overall treatment?
- How will this treatment affect my daily life? Will I be able to work, exercise, and perform my usual activities?
- Will I have difficulty controlling my bladder or bowel function after treatment?
- Could this treatment affect my sex life? If so, how and for how long?

- Could this treatment affect my ability to have children? If so, should I talk with a fertility specialist before cancer treatment begins? Should I consider sperm banking?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What support services are available to me? To my family?
- Whom should I call for questions or problems?
- Is there anything else I should be asking?

Questions to ask about having surgery

- What type of surgery will I have? Will lymph nodes be removed?
- How long will the operation take?
- How long will I be in the hospital?
- Can you describe what my recovery from surgery will be like?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this surgery?

Questions to ask about having radiation therapy

- What type of treatment is recommended?
- Where will the radiation be focused?
- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How long will it take to give this treatment?

- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve the side effects?

Questions to ask about having chemotherapy or immunotherapy

- What type of treatment do you recommend?
- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How will this treatment be given?
- How long will it take to give this treatment?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?
- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve the side effects?

Questions to ask about having androgen deprivation therapy (ADT)

- What type of ADT do you recommend?
- What is the goal of this treatment?
- How will this treatment be given?
- How long will I need to continue this treatment?
- What side effects can I expect during treatment?

- What are the possible long-term effects of having this treatment?
- What can be done to relieve the side effects?

Questions to ask about planning follow-up care

- What is the risk of the cancer returning? Are there signs and symptoms I should watch for?
- What long-term side effects or late effects are possible based on the cancer treatment I received?
- What follow-up tests will I need, and how often will I need them?
- How do I get a treatment summary and survivorship care plan to keep in my personal records?
- Who will be coordinating my follow-up care?
- What survivorship support services are available to me? To my family?

The [next section in this guide is Additional Resources](#) [6], and it offers some more resources on this website beyond this guide that may be helpful to you. Or, use the menu on the side of your screen to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/prostate-cancer/questions-ask-doctor>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/navigating-cancer-care/diagnosing-cancer/questions-ask-doctor>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24958>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/29951>

[6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19575>